undertaking export of sugar under the provisions of Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 had participated in the tenders floated by Trading Corporation of Pakistan a Government of Pakistan undertaking and their tenders were accepted against which a quantity of 2.33 lakh tonnes of sugar was supplied to Pakistan. Besides this, a quantity of 31,342 tonnes of sugar has also so far been supplied by M/s. Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., against contracts entered into by them with private traders.

**Forest Land for Devosam Board in Kerala**

608. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has asked for providing adequate forest land for Davosam Board for the development of Sabarimala temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The State Government of Kerala had earlier submitted a proposal under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 115.60 hectares of forest land in district Pathanamthitta for providing amenities to pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple. The proposed forest area formed part of Periyar Tiger Reserve. While the proposal was under process, the State Government in December, 1995 forwarded another proposal involving 20 hectares of forest land for the same purpose. The proposal was examined by the Ministry and also discussed with nodal officer, State Forest Department, Kerala, in May, 1996. As per the discussion held with the Nodal Officer, certain suggestions were made for the consideration of the Kerala State Government which include preparation of a master plan for the area already in possession of Travancore Devaswam Board in the main premises of temple to replace dilapidated structures with multi-storey structures and to explore the possibility of creating parking facilities at Plappalli, Nilackal and Rajanpara areas which have already been brought under plantation to avoid clearing of pristine natural forests in presently proposed Chakkayam area. In the absence of complete details from the State Government, the question of taking a final decision on the proposal does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Assistance/Loan to States**

609. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount given to each state during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 as assistance and as loan by his Ministry, scheme-wise;

(b) the names of the States which have not fully utilized the amount during the said period;

(c) the details of unutilized amount with each State; and

(d) the reasons for non-utilization of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]*

**Non-Payment of Subsidy**

610. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to non-clearance and non-payment of subsidy on fertilizers to small SSP units, Sarda Fertilizers of West Bengal and other SSP units have been closed or are facing closure, thereby throwing hundreds of employees to unemployment; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to make payments of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). Prices of all phosphatic fertilizers including Single Super Phosphate (SSP) have been decontrolled with effect from 25.8.92. All admissible claims of subsidy in respect of SSP units including M/s Sarda Fertilizers, for the period prior to 25.8.92 have been cleared and payments made.

Under the scheme of special concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, payments are made on the basis of claims certified by the State Governments. An amount of Rs.6.99 lakh has been paid to M/s Sarda Fertilizers during 1996-97 as per the certified claims received.

**Wildlife Week**

611. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the specific programmes and schemes launched during the wildlife week;

(b) whether any comparison of the wild life census figures especially with respect to endangered species was made and schemes launched to preserve and promble such species; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?